

# **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CODIS SOFTWARE ARRIVES IN BANGLADESH**

**SEPTEMBER 26, DHAKA** - The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is pleased to announce that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation will share the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) technology with law enforcement partners in Bangladesh. The initiative demonstrates and reaffirms the United States' commitment to assist International Law Enforcement Agencies in combating violent crime.

The Letter of Agreement allows the Multi-Sectoral Program on Violence Against Women, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, to operate a DNA database utilizing the same platform as many of its Asian counterparts. In addition, CODIS will enable the Ministry to conduct the DNA searches necessary to identify victims of the April 2013, building collapse at Rana Plaza in Savar.

The FBI Laboratory sponsors CODIS as part of a technical assistance program to International Law Enforcement forensic laboratories. CODIS blends forensic science and computer technology into an effective tool for solving violent crimes. The software allows laboratories to store, compare, and match DNA records from offenders, crime scene evidence, unidentified human remains and relatives of missing persons. Centralized DNA data enables law enforcement to benefit from new information in previously unrelated investigations.

Once CODIS is installed, the Multi-Sectoral Program on Violence Against Women, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will join more than 75 international laboratories that are using the software for the management of its DNA data. The CODIS system provided will have no connectivity to the U.S. National DNA database.

In 1998, the National DNA database, known as the National DNA Index System (NDIS), was established in the United States. Currently NDIS has over 12 million searchable profiles and has aided over 200,000 investigations.

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DNA databases have proven to be invaluable to the law enforcement community and the victims of violent crimes and their families. They have been particularly helpful to investigations that are very old and no longer producing new leads. Decades ago, crimes from cold cases would have remained unsolved.

With the participation of more than 270 laboratories, in over 45 countries, CODIS software has been instrumental in solving violent crimes throughout the world.

The United States is pleased that our law enforcement partners in Bangladesh are joining the CODIS team and that this software will help victims and their families.

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